



Basic Christian Science Nursing Principles

Is what I'm doing an expression of these basic Christian Science nursing principles?

1. Obeying the ethics of Christian Science

The Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings articulate the fundamental ethics of Christian Science, which include the practice of Christian Science nursing.

Adhering to this principle includes endeavoring to practice consistently with the following:

- the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount from the Bible
- Article VIII – "Discipline" – from the *Church Manual*
- *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* page 395:17
- obedience to the laws of the land; Mrs. Eddy writes, "Christian Scientists abide by the laws of God and the laws of the land; and, following the command of the Master, they go into all the world, preaching the gospel and healing the sick" (*First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* 128:19).

2. Supporting an individual's radical reliance on God for healing

This being the primary mission of the Christian Science nurse, support must be provided in such a way that the individual and the Christian Science practitioner can be as free as possible to devote thought to spiritual healing. The Christian Science nurse must be careful never to interfere with nor compromise the individual's stand for radical reliance on prayer for healing.

Adhering to this principle includes the following:

- always endeavoring by thought, speech, and action to alleviate fear and to restore a full measure of hope, expectancy, and joy
- never diagnosing
- never prescribing material remedies
- always approaching each individual situation as a new, unique opportunity for Love to reveal the answer that will meet the human need (as opposed to handling like any other similar appearance, whether it be physical or mental)

3. Maintaining normalcy and completeness of care

The emphasis here is to help the individual to have as normal and complete an experience as possible until the healing is evident and to ensure that we are not nursing the problem. This necessitates careful consideration of what constitutes normal human experience while maintaining dignity and safety for each individual. It is essential to prayerfully listen for how best to provide proper care under the circumstances.

Adhering to this principle includes the following considerations:

- activity
- cleanliness
- comfort
- communication and study
- mobility
- nourishment
- rest

4. Expressing simplicity and unobtrusiveness

The care that a Christian Science nurse renders should always be given in the most simple and unobtrusive manner possible. Why? In order to minimize the attention called to the care and to the belief of a problem so that the individual's thought is free to focus on the more important work of spiritual healing. Simplicity and unobtrusiveness enable the Christian Science nurse to work efficiently, smoothly, and quietly.

5. Maintaining an environment and an atmosphere conducive to healing

The Christian Science nurse's role includes maintaining an environment as free as possible of distractions to thought; an atmosphere transparent to the love of Love, the safety of Principle, the beauty of Soul, the light of Life, the inspiration of Spirit. The following are some of the environmental aspects that may be considered in light of their metaphysical and practical basis:

- light
- view
- safety
- ventilation
- arrangement of the room, including furniture and supplies for efficiency, availability, convenience, and aesthetics

